(ii) Installation of a facility in Namrup-III unit for treatment of hexavalent chromium bearing liquid effluent so as to contain chromate content level within the permissible limit.

(iii) Recycling the arsenic bearing effluent from the gas purification section of Namrup II plant.

(b) to (d) The State Pollution Control Boards monitor the quality of the effluents discharged by the industrial units in their respective States and ensure compliance of the prescribed pollution control standards. In so far as the fertilizer units under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers are concerned, schemes for ensuring adherence of pollution control measures in the plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. have been put under implementation. The pollution control measures required in the plants of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. have been studied by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and its recommendations have been evaluated.

Non-Placement of Indent to H.P.C. by Super Bazar

1028. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar are not placing any indent to the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited for the supply of paper required by the Government departments but the same are being purchased from other manufacturers/suppliers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) According to the Information furnished by the Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar, they receive orders for supply of paper in small quantities from various Government Departments whereas M/s Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC) insists on supplies in bulk of one wagon load or 25 MT of paper at a time. The HPC also demands 100% advance payment against proforma invoice raised by them. Purchase of paper by Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar in the required quantities from HPC Ltd. will be facilitated if HPC Ltd relax their norms of supplies.

Procurement Price of Wheat

1029. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the procurement price of wheat;

(b) whether some State Governments have requested in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government after taking into account the recommendations of the CACP, views of the State Governments and Central Ministries and all other relevant factors while in the opinion of the Government are important for fixing of minimum support price, has fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat for 1996-97 crop to be marketed in 1997-98 season at Rs. 415 per quintal against the MSP of Rs. 405 per quintal recommended by the CACP. The MSP fixed for 1997-98 season marks an increase of Rs. 35 over the price fixed for the previous season. The Government, after taking into account the requests received from the Governments of Punjab and Haryana for further hike in the MSP already fixed, decided to grant a central bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal for the sale of wheat to the Central pool with effect from 1.4.1997 to 30.6.97. The hike in the MSP including bonus thus works out to Rs. 95 per quintal.

[Translation]

Closed Sugar Mills

1030. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills closed at present, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive these closed mills;.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?